

No new matter has been added. The changes made to the specification, with the exception of trivial typographical error corrections, are shown in the enclosed, "VERSION OF SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION SHOWING CHANGES MADE."

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

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1. An artificial graft comprising a synthetic tubular element having a luminal surface coated with a plurality of endothelial cells that have been genetically transformed to express or over-express at least one endothelial cell proliferating growth factor and at least one cellular adherence factor.
2. The artificial vascular graft of claim 1, wherein a first portion of said plurality of endothelial cells is genetically transformed to express or over-express said at least one endothelial proliferating growth factor and a second portion of said plurality of endothelial cells is genetically transformed to express or over-express said at least one cellular adherence factor.
3. The artificial vascular graft of claim 1, wherein said luminal surface comprises polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (dPTFE), polyester fiber, poly(ethylene glycol-co-terephthalic acid) (DACRON) or processed animal blood vessels.
4. The artificial vascular graft of claim 1, wherein said synthetic tubular element is of an inner cross-sectional area which is substantially equivalent to an inner cross-sectional area of a blood vessel.

5. The artificial vascular graft of claim 4, wherein said inner cross-sectional area of said synthetic tubular element is about 7 to about 700 mm².

6. The artificial vascular graft of claim 1, wherein said plurality of endothelial cells are obtained from a segment of a vein or circulating endothelial cells or are derived from bone marrow progenitor cells or peripheral blood stem cells.

β 1 7. The artificial vascular graft of claim 1, wherein said plurality of endothelial cells are obtained from an intended recipient of the artificial graft.

8. The artificial vascular graft of claim 1, wherein said plurality of endothelial cells are obtained from a human or animal donor.

9. The artificial vascular graft of claim 1, wherein said plurality of endothelial cells form a confluent monolayer at said luminal surface.

19. A method of producing an artificial vascular graft, the method comprising the steps of:

β 2 (a) genetically transforming endothelial cells to express or over-express at least one endothelial cell proliferation growth factor and at least one cellular adherence factor; and,

(b) culturing said endothelial cells with a synthetic tubular element having a luminal surface until sufficient endothelialization of said luminal surface is achieved.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein step (a) is effected by genetically transforming a first portion of said endothelial cells to express or over-express said at least one endothelial proliferation growth factor and genetically transforming a second

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portion of said endothelial cells to express or over-express said at least one cellular adherence factor.

63 23. The method of claim 19, wherein said endothelial cells are obtained from a segment of a vein or circulating endothelial cells or are derived from bone marrow progenitor cells or peripheral blood stem cells.

51. A method of producing genetically transformed endothelial cells, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining endothelial cells from a source selected from the group consisting of a segment of a vein and bone marrow progenitor cells; and,

34 (b) transforming said endothelial cells to express or over-express at least one endothelial cell proliferation growth factor and at least one cellular adherence factor concurrently.

52. A method of replacing or bypassing at least a portion of a vascular system of an individual, the method comprising the step of implanting into the vascular system of the individual an artificial vascular graft so as to form a fluid communication between the vascular system and said artificial vascular graft, said artificial vascular graft comprising a synthetic tubular element having a luminal surface coated with a plurality of endothelial cells genetically transformed to express or over-express at least one endothelial cell proliferating growth factor and at least one cellular adherence factor.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein a first portion of said plurality of endothelial cells is genetically transformed to express or over-express said at least one endothelial cell proliferation growth factor and a second portion of said plurality of endothelial cells is genetically transformed to express or over-express said at least one cellular adherence factor.